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**NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AWARDS RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK  
A 2012 ACTIVE TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT**

U.S. Senator Levin and U.S. Congressman Dingell the National Park Foundation for  
Selecting River Raisin National Battlefield Park as  
*One of only Thirteen National Parks to Participate  
in the 2012 Active Trails Program and Invite the Public to Attend the Events on  
June 30<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>!*

**Monroe, Michigan May 31, 2012 – River Raisin National Battlefield Park** has been selected to receive a 2012 [Active Trails](#) grant from the [National Park Foundation](#), the official charity of America's national parks. "I am delighted that the National Park Foundation's Active Trails program awarded the River Raisin National Battlefield Park \$20,000 to develop interpretive trail programs," said United States Congressmen John Dingell. "I learned much on trails when I was a young boy, and exulted in my time as a park ranger. These guided trails will encourage families and individuals, young and old, to get outside and learn about one of the most significant battles in our Nation's history, the bloodiest battle of the War of 1812. If there were a different outcome of this war, 'our' second war of independence, we would be toasting the queen today instead of singing the Star Spangled Banner. The great outdoors and our national historical sites enrich people's perspective on life, enhance our historical and cultural understanding and make us better stewards to our nation." – United States Congressman John D. Dingell

Now in its fourth cycle, the National Park Foundation's Active Trails program promotes national parks as venues for community engagement, and encourages healthy living through various forms of recreation and volunteer service on land and water trails.

"Maintaining over 18,000 miles of trails is no small task," said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "The Active Trail funds help parks across the country create or expand vital trail related projects, improving the visitor experience and encouraging engagement opportunities with each parks' gateway community."

Since 2008, the National Park Foundation has granted over \$1.2 million through its Active Trails program. To date, Active Trails has engaged more than 3,100 volunteers and 86 project partners who combined have contributed over 13,000 hours to help promote, refurbish or build national park trails that were ultimately enjoyed by 291,000 visitors (and counting!).

"We deeply honored to be selected to receive this grant, which in partnership with the Monroe County Bicentennial Committee and many other local partners will enable us to provide two new world class visitor experience along the

River Raisin Heritage Trail for visitors to enjoy,” said Scott Bentley, Superintendent of River Raisin National Battlefield Park.

The combined funding from the National Park Foundation and Monroe County Bicentennial Committee will establish the “Clash of Powers in Frontier America – A Walk Back In Time” event that will enable visitors to experience the dynamics that lead to the Battles of the River Raisin, their aftermath, and the lasting influence the Battles had on shaping the Nations of North America. “On Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. visitors of all ages will be able to journey back in time as they encounter at least 12 costumed performances placed in settings that bring to life the events surrounding the Battles of the River Raisin from a day in the life of a Native American along the Nummasepee and early fur trading to Tecumseh’s Confederation to save native lands and customs and the revenge of the Raisin march to the White House,” said Superintendent Bentley.

On June 30, 2012, funding from these grants will also help provide visitors an opportunity to walk back in time as the Battlefield commemorates the building of Hull’s Road with period encampments, demonstrations, and a historic March along Hulls road. The day’s events start at 10 a.m. and will conclude with a grand patriotic tribute to those serving and veterans of America’s Armed Forces performed by the 126<sup>th</sup> United States Army Band.

"This grant will help connect visitors to a key moment in the history of Michigan and our nation. The battle and massacre on the River Raisin became a turning point in America's second war for independence, and as visitors walk along the River Raisin Heritage Trail, the interpretive experiences funded by this grant will help bring that important history alive."  
– United States Senator Carl Levin

All of the events are open and free to the public!

In addition to River Raisin National Battlefield Park the 2012 Active Trails grantees include:

[Antietam National Battlefield](#), Maryland

[Catoctin Mountain Park](#), Maryland

[Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#), California

[Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#), Tennessee

[Gulf Islands National Seashore](#), Mississippi District, Florida

[Harpers Ferry National Historical Park](#), West Virginia

[Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve](#), Louisiana

[Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park](#), Georgia

[Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park](#), Alaska

[Mesa Verde National Park](#), Colorado

[New River Gorge National River](#), West Virginia

[Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore](#), Michigan

A listing of these parks and their Active Trails project descriptions can be found on the [National Park Foundation website](#).

The National Park Foundation and River Raisin National Battlefield Park wish to thank the [Coca-Cola Foundation](#) and the Monroe County Bicentennial Committee for their generous support of the Active Trails program. In addition, we would like to thank the Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield, Monroe Community Players, Monroe County Historical Society, the City of Monroe, Monroe County Historical Museum, River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation, the 126<sup>th</sup> United States Army Band, Monroe Area Veterans Organizations, the Monroe County Tourism Bureau and the Battlefield’s many dedicated volunteers.

For more information on the [National Park Foundation](#) or how you can support and protect America’s national parks, please visit [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).

For more information about **River Raisin National Battlefield Park**, please visit [www.nps.gov/rira](http://www.nps.gov/rira).

**About the National Park Foundation.** You are the owner of 84 million acres of the world's most treasured memorials, landscapes, ecosystems, and historic sites -- all protected in America's nearly 400 national parks. Chartered by Congress, the National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks. We work hand in hand with the National Park Service to connect you and all Americans to the parks, and to make sure that they are preserved for the generations who will follow. Join us in supporting your national parks -- this is your land. [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)

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